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Season Ticket

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# The Season Ticket, February 1996

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# THE SEASON TICKET

Vol. X No. 2 Columbia Theater/Music Center Feb/Mar 1996

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## Here Comes the Sun

(do-n-do-do)

Welcome to the winter edition of **The Season Ticket**. I know it's not springtime just yet, but it's never too early to start thinking about it, especially with the Spring Semester having already begun.

The fall semester was a busy one with numerous faculty and directing projects as well as three Main Season shows (**Dracula**, **The Lady from Maxim's**, and **A Bernstein Songbook**).

Already, the spring semester is looking to be equally busy, if not more so. For the Spring, the Theater/Music Department is planning three Main Season shows (**The Trees Don't Bleed in Tuskegee**, **A Midsummer Night's Dream**, and **Summer and Smoke**) plus several directing projects and a show from the Music Department.

It should be an amazing semester and we hope that you will come to see these shows and support the students at **Columbia College's Theater/Music Center**.



# The Trees Don't Bleed in Tuskegee

## Theodore Ward Prize for African- American Playwrights

This contest is named for **Theodore Ward** who was part of the *Federal Theater Project* in Chicago during the 1930's. This year is the tenth anniversary of this contest.

**The Trees Don't Bleed in Tuskegee** by **Duane Chandler**, the final production of our first decade of prize winners. The Tuskegee Experiment used African-American men as guinea pigs to study the effects of syphilis on untreated human beings.

These men were never told they carried the disease nor that they were not being treated for it, even after penicillin was found to be an effective cure.

Set on a porch in Tuskegee, Alabama, the show reveals memories of this tragic time and of the individuals who were participants in this tragic experiment.

**Duane Chandler** graduated with honors from **Rutgers University** with a BA in African Studies and English. This play has received readings at **Crossroads Theatre** in New Jersey and by the **Negro Ensemble Company** in New York. This is the first full production of this show.

## Theodore Ward Shows

Show times for **Trees Don't Bleed in Tuskegee** are as follows:

February 14	7:30pm Preview
February 15	2:00pm Preview
February 16	7:30pm Preview
February 17	7:30pm Preview
February 18	7:00pm Opening
February 20	4:00pm Performance
February 21	2:00pm Performance
February 22	7:30pm Performance
February 23	7:30pm Performance
February 24	7:30pm Performance
February 25	3:00pm Closing

Tickets are \$2. Columbia Students are admitted free with a valid ID. Not-For-Profit groups are eligible for free tickets.\*

\*Subject to Availability

The **New Studio** is located in the basement of the Theater/Music Building located at 72 E 11th St., Chicago.

# A Midsummer Night's Dream

## A Midsummer Night's Dream

Directed by **Susan Padveen**. With sets by **John Murbach**, costumes designed by **Francis Maggio**, lights by **Chris Phillips**, choreography by **Frank Fishella** and sound design by **Joe Cerqua**.

*A Midsummer Night's Dream* is the story of "two young lovers who are thwarted in their plans to marry by parental and court decree." They soon decide to elope and run away to the forest, followed by two other lovers. "Along the way, they become emeshed in the world of the fairies, as does a group of laborers" rehearsing a play.

Since this production is set in Ireland, the world of the Ancient Celts gave impetus for the sets, costumes and lighting. The sets by **John Murbach** impart the sense of magic that is the world of the fairies, says director **Susan Padveen** "with an element of playfulness and whimsy." The costumes by **Frances Maggio** are influenced by two time periods: the ancient Celts (the fairies) and the late 1800's early 1900's for the lovers and court, and of course stylized costumes for the "play within the play."

Live music will be featured in the show with heavy Irish influences and traditional Irish instruments. According to director **Susan Padveen**, "The movement will also pay a certain debt to Irish dance. . ." as choreographed by **Frank Fishella**.

Says Susan, "This is a play I have always loved. It was the first Shakespeare play that I really made an emotional connection with. It is also a hopeful, happy play about love and coming together. . . very little is noble or royal to exclusion of being just human."

**Susan** is also excited about the opportunity the cast will have in working with **Kate Buckley**, a director and teacher, who often works with

Shakespeare Rep on text. Says **Susan** "She's called the verse nurse and has a great working style and makes everything very understandable."

So come and enjoy the majesty, artistry and humor that is William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the **Getz Theater of Columbia College**.

## A Midsummer Night's Dream

Show times for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* are as follows:

March 13	7:30pm
March 14	10:00am
March 15	10:00am
March 16	7:30pm
March 17	7:00pm
March 20	10:00am
March 21	7:30pm
March 22	10:00 am
March 23	7:30pm
March 24	3:00pm

Tickets are \$5 to \$14. Columbia Students are admitted free with a valid ID. Not-for-Profit groups are eligible for free tickets.\*

\*Subject to Availability

The **Getz Theater** is located in the Theater/Music Building at 62 E. 11th Street, Chicago.





## What's Happening in the Music Department?

### The Chicago Jazz Ensemble

The Chicago Jazz Ensemble ended 1995 on a very successful note. An SRO crowd watched the Ensemble make history at the Park West Club on Friday, November 17th, when it performed the first ever complete live performance of "Sketches of Spain." The concert was chosen as a Critic's Choice in the Chicago Reader and received a rave review from the Chicago Tribune.

In December, the Chicago Jazz Ensemble played another critically acclaimed concert at Buddy Guy's Legends Club in the South Loop.

1996 finds the Ensemble playing a full schedule in and out of the Chicagoland area. They will be performing in Junt at the Getz Theater. The program is to be announced.

The Music Department held a special presentation on Oct. 23, presenting double bass performer and composer, Miloslav Gajdos of the Czech Republic. Columbia pupil Joshua Piet performed Gajdos's *Solo in A Minor*. Gajdos performed a short recital leaving all in attendance awestruck and anxiously awaiting his return.

## Faculty Spotlight

Linda Buchannan is our newest theater faculty member at Columbia. She has a BA in Sociology which she obtained from the University of Chicago. "I'm glad I got a Liberal Arts degree first; I think it gave me a better world view as an artist," says Linda.

Linda decided to go into theater because "it combined intellectual and hands-on skills." For her, Columbia is a great school, full of energy. She appreciates the wide variety of students there are at Columbia adding that "no one student is the same as the next."

The biggest change for Linda over the past ten years has been her own growth in awareness and the acceptance of her own authority and responsibilities. That, she feels, helps her achieve more successful collaborations in this industry. The most important skill she has learned is "to be adaptable, to really be open to other's ideas."

Linda, who is a nationally recognized designer, recently designed *The Sisters Rosensweig* at the St. Louis Rep., *On the Town* at Court Theater and *I Hate Hamlet* at the Royal George. She is also currently working on *Arcadia* at the Goodman Theater and *The American Plan* at the National Jewish Theater.



## Directing projects And Faculty Workshops

*The Lady from the Sea* by Ibsen is being presented in the New Studio March 1-8. It will be directed by Kathleen Perkins.

Directing projects this semester include

*Vivien* (April 8-12), *Brighton Beach Memoires* (April 26-May 2), *Two Small bodies* (April 22-25), *A. . . My Name is Alice* (May 3-9) and *Romance/Romance* (May 28-30).





## PEOPLE MAKING NEWS

**Mary Badger** is designing lights for Lifeline Theater's production of *Precious Bane* and Pegasus Players' production of *Fixin' to Die* as well as *The Adding Machine* at Loyola Univ. Mary is also lighting designer for the Splinter Group which will be doing *The Buckets of Beckett* at the Beckett Festival. In early December, Mary attended the United Scenic Artists LU 829 National Meeting of which she is a officer.

**Dale Calandra** originated the role of "squeaky clean" in the premiere production of *Lifedreamedof* at Center Theater Ensemble. He designed the makeup and hair for the Chicago Bar Association's annual *Xmas Spirits Show* at the Hilton. This was his 14th year with the show. Dale is currently preparing to direct Oak Park Festival Theater's summer show *Hamlet* for which he currently serves as Artistic Director.

**John Cashman** has been very busy in the closing months of '95. In addition to playing with the band XEL around the south suburbs, John recently joined Big Picture. Their first album broke the top 100 in Europe and sold out their first pressing. They are now recording their follow up effort for Kinesis Records with John playing bass and singing. As if on cue, XEL has also decided to enter the recording studio to lay down tracks for a demo of original material. Both bands should be busy locally/regionally in '96.

**Bette Coulson** (with Evelyn Binz) will give a piano duet concert April 11 at 7:30pm for the Park Ridge Library. They will also perform April 28 at 3:00pm for the North Shore Cultural Center on Sheridan Road. Their concerts always include commentary about the music. On May 17 at 7:00pm, they join with Emi Murata (a former

Columbia instructor) and Pat Rusk to give a two piano and quartet concert. It will be held Friday evening at Sherwood Conservatory of Music.

**Antje Gehrken** just finished a faculty workshop entitled *Jukebox* which featured songs she wrote. In the spring, the show which Antje adapted and will musically direct, *Up on the Roof*, is slated for the National Jewish Theater.

**Carol Loverde** has been very busy this fall. She represented Columbia College in a 25 second spot on Channel 7 saluting the Italian-American Woman during Chicago's *Columbus Day Celebration* in October. She was a singer with the Chicago A Cappella singing Holiday music in December. Also in January she will be a soloist with the *East Meets West Music Ensemble*, singing the music of China. Also in the works is a CD with the *Chicago A Cappella* in January and a variety of performances with the *Chicago A Cappella* in the Spring.

**Cecilie O'Reilly** will perform in *Learning at the Knee* in Preston Bradley Hall at the Cultural Center (at the corner of Washington and Michigan) at 2pm on March 9, 1996 as part of *Women's History Month*. Cecilie will also be featured as the voice of the *Snow Queen* for Blair Thomas' Puppet Theater at the Lunar Cabaret. on Feb. 10, 17 and 24 at 2pm.

**Susan Padveen** recently directed Wendy Wasserstein's *The Sisters Rosenweig* at the National Jewish Theater.

**Sheldon Patinkin** is directing John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* at the Bog Theater in Des Plaines in February. He is also teaching acting classes at the Lyric Opera Center for American Artists and will be directing John Mahoney in *Krapp's Last Tape* for the Buckets of Beckett Festival set to open April 25.

**Barbara Robertson** received a Jefferson Award for her work in *Angels in America*.

**Brian Posen** has been busy this semester filming commercials for SuperAmerica Gas, Vanish and Handicord. He has been seen as Man 3 in the Merattic Theater Company's production of *Prime* and has performed in *The Water Spider* for Women in Film. He is still teaching full time at The Second City. He has been seen in the summer working at the Bristol and Minnesota Renaissance Faires. Brian has also been touring the midwest in his improvisation troupe called The B-Side.



## The Staff

### Contributors:

H.E. Baccus  
Mary Badger  
Susan Padveen  
Sheldon Patinkin  
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Brian Shaw

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